

Acting SA and CSA Send Safety Message to the Army

For the second consecutive year, Soldier accidental fatalities are on the decline. Nevertheless, the estimated 220 Soldiers we will lose this year to accidents are 220 too many. Moreover, our active and reserve forces will suffer more than a half-million nonbattle injuries—an average of one per Soldier—and our civilian workforce injuries are rising, resulting in personal tragedies and degraded abilities of a valuable component of our Army team. Two-thirds of our major accidents occur off duty; and even for those on duty, poor decisions are at the heart of most incidents. The vast majority of military and civilian mishaps are clearly preventable. It is our obligation to ensure our Soldiers, civilian employees, family members and contractors have a safe, healthy working and living environment. To best preserve our combat power, our strategy is to fully achieve what we have already begun through implementation of the following:

- Establish a culture where safety is a way of life during training, operations and off duty.
- Build a command climate where preventable loss is unacceptable.
- Ensure leader engagement and accountability for their programs.
- Develop executable safety plans for mission success.

We will institutionalize these tenets through all Army commands, with our ultimate aim to personalize safety for each individual. The lynchpin for our success is the leader, and we expect leaders at all levels to personally engage those they lead. Know your Soldiers and civilian employees. Coach, teach and mentor them.

As we continue to fight terror across the globe, we cannot squander our precious human capital on senseless losses. Through firm resolve in this most vital endeavor, together we will stay Army Strong.

—Mr. Pete Geren assumed his duties as Acting Secretary of the Army March 9, 2007, and will continue serving concurrently as the Under Secretary of the Army. GEN George W. Casey Jr. became the 36th Chief of Staff, United States Army, on April 10, 2007. This was from a message to the Army dated May 9, 2007.